

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 1 will be amended, whereby claims 1-5, 8-15, 18, 19 and 21-37 will remain pending. Claims 1 and 19 are independent claims.

The claims have been amended herein in accordance with an August 3, 2004 telephone interview with the Examiner wherein the Examiner indicated that amendment of claim 1 in the manner amended herein would place the application into condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Discussion of Telephone Interview

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative during an August 3, 2004 telephone interview. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that U.S. Patent No. 4,594,115 to Lacoude was being used in the rejection in place of its European family member EP 0170598.

The Examiner also confirmed that the action had been made final.

Regarding the rejection based upon Lacoude, the rejection of record was discussed as well as Applicants' claims 1 and 19 and the disclosure of Lacoude. Following this discussion, which included representing Applicants' previously submitted arguments, the Examiner indicated that amendment of claim 1 in the manner presented herein would place the application into condition for allowance.

Allowability of Claims 19-33

Applicants express appreciation for the indication of allowance of claims 19-33.

Response To Obviousness Rejection

In response to the rejection of claims 1-18 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,594,115 to Lacoude, Applicants respectfully submit the following.

As noted above, during the above-noted telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable upon filing of the instant amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record is respectfully requested based upon arguments previously presented in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111, filed January 16, 2004. For the sake of brevity, these arguments are not being repeated herein but are incorporated herein as if set forth in their entirety.

In view of the above, the rejection is without appropriate basis, and should be withdrawn.

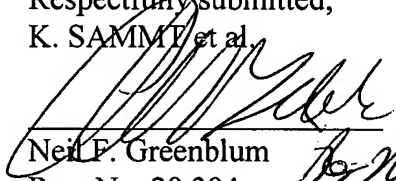
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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